WJM.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON D. C.,

June 24, 1886.

Jas.C.Booth,

U.S.Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Unusual pressure of official duties prevented me from immediately acknowledging receipt of your highly esteemed favor of the 9th inst enclosing a transcript of the organic law instituting the geologic survey of Delaware, and of your categoric answers tofthe specific questions comprised in the circular relating to our proposed History.

I now beg to convey my warmest thanks for this important contribution to our History, and at the same time to express the hope that the indisposition with which you are threatened may have been warded off ere this time, and that no other circumstance may prevent you from fully elaborating the history of your survey. Yours was one of the pioneer surveys that did much not only in immediate development of the resources of our country, but in moulding public opinion, and thus in paving a way for still fur-

ther development of our national resources during subsequent years; and it is accordingly one of those surveys which scientific men everywhere desire to see treated exhaustibly and in such manner as to reflect credit upon the able and energetic men who initiated and executed it.

Believe me to remain,

Dear Sir,

With great respect,

Very truly yours,

J. W. Powell

Director.